

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1926

WHAT KIND OF A LEGISLATURE HAVE WE?

Every two years the Michigan Legislature convenes in Lansing and begins an attempt to set this glorious commonwealth at right with the universe. Bills are introduced each day during the session, and the sum total of them would stagger the invoices rendered by the world's largest mail order house.

Do you manufacture linen, cotton, or other textiles? Then you may enrich your net income if some wise legislator introduces a bill to lengthen the bed sheets in hotels and other public parking stables. Do you think that some corporation is getting too much of the public's money? Then, legislate against them. You may introduce any kind of a bill and it will occupy the time and attention of Michigan's wisacres.

Of course, a good many laws placed on our statute books are of benefit to the people; and that is why we elect legislators. But, if you would closely scrutinize the bills as they are presented at Lansing, you would find that many of the problems that concern the real fundamentals of life are not up for proper solution.

What can be of greater value to the people of Michigan than good schools, good universities and colleges? Can you conceive of anything that can perform a better public service than a means whereby the MENTALITIES of Michigan's boys and girls may be developed? We believe that you agree with us on this point.

Then why should not this Legislature do ALL in its power to provide finances for the University of Michigan? There is no decent excuse to offer if the present Legislature adjourns without providing adequate finances to carry on the great work started at Ann Arbor by Marion Leroy Burton.

Is the present State Legislature of the "bed sheet" kind, or is it vitally concerned with the future inheritors of this commonwealth of Michigan? Let us hope that it is concerned with the latter.

CAN YOU THINK?

Perhaps the most solemn question that can be put to a person today is, "Can you think?" The test of individual efficiency and usefulness to society enters in a man's ability to use his mind. Emerson never erected a more arresting danger signal than when he exclaimed: "Beware when the great God lets loose a thinker on the planet!" If we could only harness the mental power of America today we could solve the gigantic problems of the world. Not by appeals to prejudice and class interest, not by the hurling of epithets, not by the ready acceptance of half truths, not by careful, painstaking, scientific, scholarly thought combined with wise and timely action, will civilization be rescued and human freedom made secure. Upon Education depends the future of Democracy. Therefore, every loyal citizen, every self-respecting person, must utilize his opportunities to strengthen his grip on knowledge and to stimulate his mind. The truth has always made men free, and truth is available only for him who thinks.—Marion Leroy Burton.

A STRANGE DOCUMENT

This is a strange will of a Chicago lawyer who is said to have died absolutely penniless in an insane asylum. It has been published a good many times, and we copy it here at the request of a friend:

"I being in sound and disposing mind and memory, do hereby make and publish this, my last will and testament, as justly as may be, to distribute my interests in the world among succeeding men.

"That part of my interests which is known and recognized in the sheepskin volumes as my property, I make no disposal of in this, my will. My right to live being but a life estate, is not at my disposal. But, these things excepted, all else in the world I now proceed to devise and bequeath.

"Item: I give to good fathers and mothers in trust for their children all good little words of praise and encouragement, and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly, and generously as the needs of their children shall require.

"Item: I leave to children inclusively but only for the term of their childhood, all the flowers of the fields, and the blossoms of the woods, with the right to play among them freely according to the customs of children, warning them at the same times against thistles and thorns. And I devise to children the banks of the brooks and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof and the odors of the willows that dip therein and the white clouds that float over the giant trees.

"And I leave to the children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousand ways, and the night and the moon and the train of the Milky Way to wonder at, but subject, nevertheless, to the rights hereinafter given to lovers.

"Item: I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played, all pleasant waters where one may swim, all snow-clad hills where one may coast and all streams and ponds where one may fish, or where, when grim winter comes, one may skate, to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood; and all meadows with clover blossoms and butterfies thereof, the woods and their appurtenances, the squirrels and birds and echoes and strange noises, and all distant places which may be visited, together with adventures there found. And I give to said boys each his own place at the fireside at night, with all pictures that may be seen in the burning wood, to enjoy without let or hindrance, and without any incumbrance or care.

"Item: To lovers, I devise their imaginary world, with whatever they may need, as the stars of the sky, and the red roses by the wall, the bloom of the Hawthorne, the

THE LITTLE CHURCH

It's just a simple little church, Not very big, you know, and small. But it's a friendly sort of place Where one would want to go. We built it, every bit, ourselves. Whenever they could spare. An hour or two, the men have worked. Each gladly did his share. They shingled it and laid the floor. Its walls so clean and new. Were raised by fond and loving hands. They made the benches, too.

The women cooked and baked, and spread A table good to see To cheer the hungry workers on At every Building Bee.

Our Sunday School we count among The finest of its joys. For every Sunday morn it's filled With precious girls and boys.

'Though it's a simple little church, We love to gather there, Where friendliness and love o'erflow, To join in song and prayer.

—Beatrice McDonald.

sweet strains of music, and aught else they may desire to figure to each other the lastingness and the beauty of their love.

"Item: To young men jointly I devise and bequeath, all boisterous inspiring sports of rivalry and I give to them the disdain and weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength. Though they be rude, I leave to them the power to make lasting friendships and of possessing companies, and to them exclusively I give all merry songs and brave choruses to sing with lusty voices.

"Item: And to those who are no longer children or youths or lovers, I leave memory, and I bequeath to them the volumes of Burns and Shakespeare, and of other poets, if there be others, to the end that they may live the old days over again, freely and fully without tithes or diminution.

"Item: To our beloved ones with snowy crowns I bequeath the happiness of old age, and the love and gratitude of their children, till they fall asleep."—Selected.

RESULTS WERE STARTLING

Returning winter voyagers to Michigan from Florida are bringing back tales of the surging crowds that fairly over-ran that state during the past few months. But every year the population is growing from that of a seasonable to a permanent nature. Northerners are going south and are making permanent investments and the future of that section of the country seems assured so far as capital and new blood is concerned. Recently Florida enacted constitutional prohibition of state income and inheritance taxes, as well as a constitutional limitation of only five mills tax on tangible property. No property owner is asked to make a sworn statement to an assessor and no state examiner is allowed to investigate the contents of a safety deposit box.

While thousands of northern residents are changing their domiciles to Florida in order to escape excessive taxation, the north goes on calmly figuring out new methods of taxation on all kinds of wealth and industry. We do not believe Michigan should go as far as Florida has gone in wiping out taxation, but with our industrial growth of recent years, with our resources as a summer resort for the world, we should scan all new tax legislation proposed with a great deal of care. Why not make Michigan as attractive to our people as the South is doing?

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background of the Birmingham of Today

43 Years Ago

At the meeting of the Centenary Association held Saturday evening last, the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. E. F. Truitt; Vice President, Mrs. J. A. Utter; Secretary, Miss A. Cromwell; Treasurer, Mrs. H. A. Randall; Executive Committee, Miss Mattie Baldwin, Miss V. Post, Mrs. G. Blakeslee, Dr. Charles M. Haymale. To secure the means that would be needed to defray the dues were assessed at \$1.00. The Association is in a prosperous condition, having 43 names on its list of members.

The following are the officers elected in the township by their majorities. We do not consider it necessary to give returns from the whole county. The Republicans selected their ticket with the exception of Miller for treasurer, Bodine for justice and J. O. Beattie, constable. Supervisor, Edward Fodwin, 51; Township Clerk, Almerus Whitehead, Jr., 35; Treasurer, Edwin Miller, 35; Highway Commissioner, Abraham Vaughan, 33; Drain Commissioner, John G. Durston, 28; School Inspector, James P. Gibson, 32. The following constables were elected: Henry J. Blumberg, William H. Young, Gavin Longmair, James O. Beattie.

A. B. Simonson, son of A. D. Simonson of this place, has recently been chosen last winter resident at Harper's Hospital in Detroit.

You can get a three pound can of dried apples for only 40 cents at Whitehead and Mitchell's. Better try some.

Our Union School opened on Monday morning last with full attendance of pupils in all the departments.

Miss Ella Brady will teach the Bloomfield Center school this summer.

The festive frog is already singing in the swamps. Some of the farmers in this vicinity have planted their potatoes.

The entertainment given by the "Ready Helpers" last week was quite a success, thanks to their many friends, about eighty of whom contrib-

uted at the house of Rev. T. Middlecamp to eat pie, etc., and to listen to some excellent readings by Mrs. M. N. Brown, an elocutionist from Detroit. The net receipts were \$20.00.

Misses Maggie Brown and Emma Chatfield who have been teaching in the Union School at East Tawas were home on a vacation last week. Mrs. Brown remains with us and Miss Chatfield resumes her work in that place.

The Birmingham Grange give a grape sugar festival at the Grange Hall next Saturday evening and invite their many friends to come, partake and be happy. Two hundred pounds of the "Sachertorte" have been secured and if you don't get any you are to blame.

We have an announcement to make this week which we hope will meet with the honest approbation of the majority of our readers, but which we candidly expect will meet with the disapproval of a few. We have a large list of subscribers a fact which we point to with pride as a result of the persevering work which we have given to our enterprise since we issued our first number nearly four years ago. On and after May 1st our subscription price of The Eccentric will be \$1.50 per year in advance. All those who pay up before that date will get it at the old price, \$1.00.

25 Years Ago Is a manufactory for Birmingham in sight?

Remember the date for the Old Maid's convention is April 7.

This spring vacation week, which is much appreciated, event with teachers and pupils. The first housecleaning in town has been completed by Mrs. Pinder Worth, and every lady on Woodward Avenue is just green with envy to think they have been beaten.

Miss Ida Corey is enjoying herself real well this spring. All the water west of her home, before it reaches the river, is so rough that it will pass through her collar. Of course, it's rather inconvenient for the Miss Ides when she wants potatoes for din-

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FISH, FACT, AND FICTION

That incomparable pair of Exchange Fish shows to local citizens as James F. Wooster and Thomas D. Lynch, met for the first time several months at Leuchon Tuesday noon. Of course, "Jim" was eulogistic of the fishing. "Tom" on the other hand, rather skeptically of "Jim's" ability to bait a hook. It required practically the entire English club membership to convince "Tom" that "Jim's" fish stories were not fiction.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

(Little Editorials picked up by the Staff in and around Birmingham.)

ner to put on her rubber boots, and the boys began to wonder if we were going under, but I kept my eye on the captain's wife and she continued to crocheted and I felt safe, but if she ever laid down that crocheting I would have said a last good-bye.

The annual meeting of the Village Improvement Society will be held at the home of Mrs. E. F. Peabody, Saturday afternoon, March 31, at 3:00 o'clock. Everyone interested in the village improvement is invited. Mrs. Theroy Smith, Sec'y.

There was a quiet wedding at the Methodist Parsonage last Sunday evening, March 25, Rev. N. North Clark officiating. The contracting parties were Mrs. E. F. Peabody and Augustus Vermilyea. Their many friends wish them the continued enjoyment of a happy home.

The busiest man this week is Martin H. Blunt, the Warren auctioneer who has an auction sale for every day this week, and some of them are extraordinary large sales, too. It goes to show that the more you know about want the best talent, when they need it for an auction sale, and then, of course, they select the best, who is Martin Blunt, every time.

Married at the residence of the bride's parents, in Ypsilanti, Bert Newwood Blakeslee, and Miss Bessie Hall, by Rev. W. H. Peabody, pastor of the Baptist Church, March 25. It was a very quiet wedding, only immediate relatives and contracting parties being present. The young couple go directly to their home in Detroit where they will be ready to receive their many friends. Here's congratulations.

A kitten up a tree being tormented by a Whitehead's dog heart and sympathy enlisted for the suffering feline. He attempts the rescue, secures the kitten, when two limbs suddenly break and he falls heavily to the ground. Claire Aldridge had the kitten and Dr. Seaver arrives with the assistance of Messrs. Nichols and Montgomery and carries the kitten into the kitchen. We don't know what became of the puss. The cat was black, and had it been white, it would have been a good deal of trouble, Whitey would have cared worse.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

(Little Editorials picked up by the Staff in and around Birmingham.)

Volney Nixon, South Woodward Avenue, "I believe that, if Governor Greenback knew three or four years ago what he knows now, he would never have started a 200-ft. highway on Woodward Avenue. As far as Birmingham is concerned, I think that we will eventually have a new Woodward Avenue through our town. Any wider would cost too much. The State is not going to waste money on this Woodward Avenue in this village, I firmly believe."

George H. Mitchell, of Brown street, "People like to live in and near Birmingham have an idea that the Birmingham City Government is much more apt than that is not the case. There are plenty of Democrats in Birmingham, but there are also plenty of so-called Republicans who will vote for a good Democrat. Our old party will have the next Governor in Lansing—you betchelle on this."

Dr. Hugs Erickson, of Harmon Avenue, "Perhaps it would be feasible, in order to save the beautiful old Mack Centre for Woodward Avenue, to establish 25-ft. concrete roadways on both sides, leaving the present Avenue in the center with the lines of trees between the new streets and the old. The roadway on the west side would be the present roadway, and the roadway on the east to the northbound traffic, while the center roadway would be for express and interurbans. Houses can be moved, but the trees cannot."

Arthur J. Tugsey, Sr., of Pleasant Avenue, is real estate business here. "With the building that is in progress in Birmingham and the building that is planned here for the spring and summer, I don't believe there is any doubt that Birmingham will be double its present size by this time next year. It is also planning to improve the city on the west side of the city, and on the west side of 250, all to be done this summer, and the whole country is showing abnormal growth."

James F. Wooster, of Ann street, who has this week returned from Florida, "Fishing off St. Petersburg is the best I have ever done. I want to go out in a boat hired for the purpose, and I want to go with my books there are many times when you pull in your line with two big fish on it, and you weigh less than five or six pounds. Rough water doesn't even interfere with the fishing. I went on to the day I went out, there were only five out of twenty of us that did any fishing, the rest were stered away in bunk. For a